

Focus Area 15: Injury and Violence Prevention

Objective 15-9 targets an overall reduction in the suffocation death rate to 3.0 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for suffocation deaths were 3.3 per 100,000 population in 2000, 3.4 in 2001, 3.1 in 2002, and 3.5 in 2003 (Figure 15-9, Table 15-9). California's suffocation death rates are not significantly higher than the HP2010 objective of 3.0 per 100,000 population, but the target has not yet been achieved.

California data by race and ethnicity show that Whites had the highest age-adjusted suffocation death rates (3.7 per 100,000 in 2000, 4.1 in 2001, 3.8 in 2002, and 4.3 in 2003), followed by African Americans/Blacks (3.0 per 100,000 in 2000 and 2001, 2.5 in 2002, and 3.3 in 2003), and by Asians (3.4 per 100,000 in 2000, 3.2 in 2001, and 3.1 in 2002 and 2003). This objective is not being achieved for these racial groups as of 2003. The HP2010 objective is, however, being achieved for Hispanics/Latinos (2.5 per 100,000 in 2000, 2.4 in 2001, 2.1 in 2002, and 2.3 in 2003). Suffocation death rates for the American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and the "Multirace" populations are unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported.

Age-adjusted suffocation death rates for males (4.8 per 100,000 in 2000, 5.1 in 2001, 4.8 in 2002, and 5.2 in 2003) were significantly higher than those for females (1.9 per 100,000 in 2000, 1.6 in 2001 and in 2002, and 1.8 in 2003). This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

For more information on suffocation in California, visit the Chronic Disease and Injury Control (CDIC) Web site at:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 15-9, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od15.htm>

**Figure 15-9
Suffocation Death Rates
California, 2000-2003**

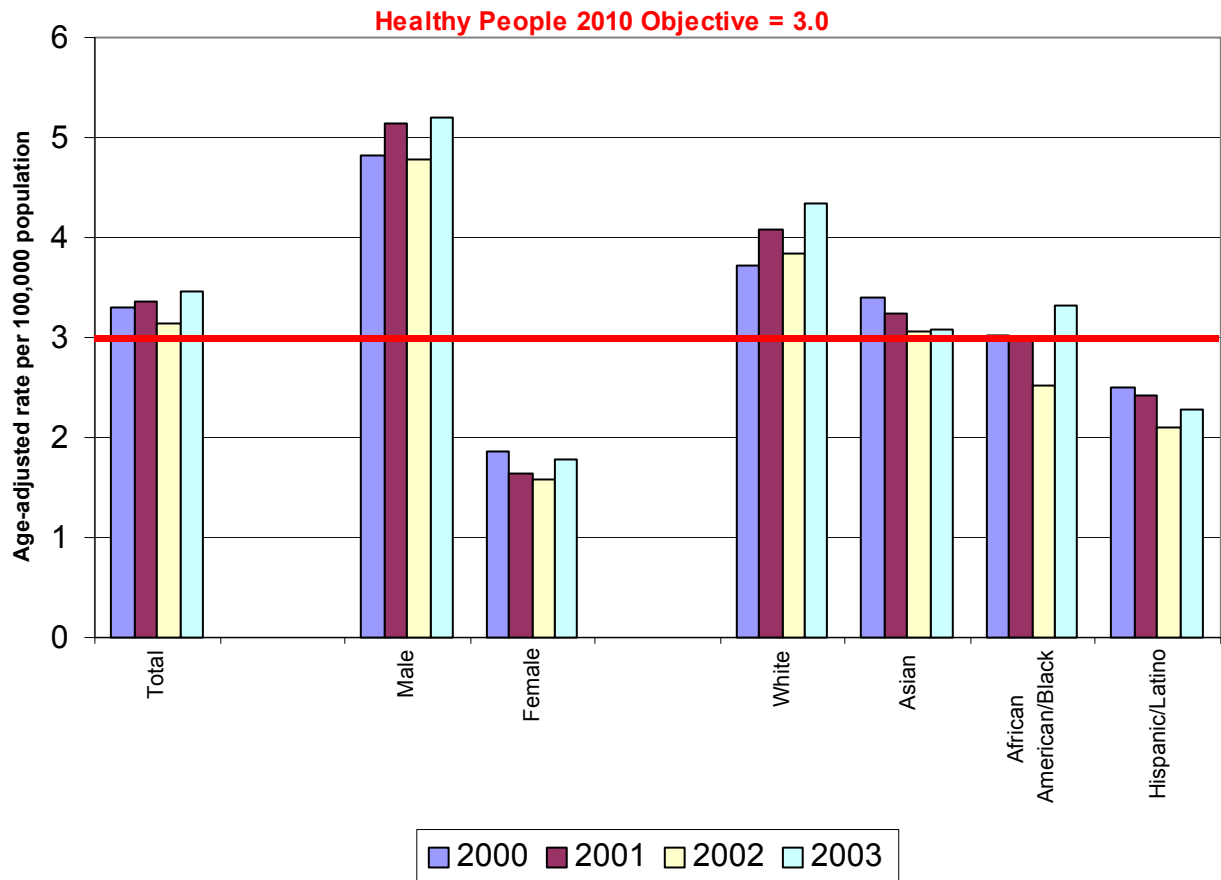


Table 15-9
Suffocation Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000		Lower	Upper	2001		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		3.0				3.0		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	1,088	3.3	3.1	3.5	1,146	3.4	3.2	3.6
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	65	3.0	2.3	3.8	65	3.0	2.2	3.7
American Indian	7	DSU	-----	-----	6	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	116	3.4	2.8	4.0	118	3.2	2.6	3.8
Hispanic/Latino	244	2.5	2.1	2.9	255	2.4	2.1	2.8
Pacific Islander	2	DSU	-----	-----	5	DSU	-----	-----
White	642	3.7	3.4	4.0	691	4.1	3.8	4.4
Multirace	11	DSU	-----	-----	5	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	318	1.9	1.6	2.1	290	1.6	1.4	1.8
Male	770	4.8	4.5	5.2	856	5.1	4.8	5.5

	2002		Lower	Upper	2003		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		3.0				3.0		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	1,094	3.1	3.0	3.3	1,233	3.5	3.3	3.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	57	2.5	1.9	3.2	76	3.3	2.6	4.1
American Indian	8	DSU	-----	-----	10	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	119	3.1	2.5	3.6	118	3.1	2.5	3.6
Hispanic/Latino	235	2.1	1.8	2.4	265	2.3	2.0	2.6
Pacific Islander	5	DSU	-----	-----	11	DSU	-----	-----
White	657	3.8	3.5	4.1	740	4.3	4.0	4.7
Multirace	10	DSU	-----	-----	10	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	284	1.6	1.4	1.8	325	1.8	1.6	2.0
Male	810	4.8	4.4	5.1	908	5.2	4.9	5.6

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, May 2004.

NOTES: Suffocation deaths defined by ICD-10 codes X70, X91, W75-W84, Y20.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable due to small number of events.